IN THE CLAIMS

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listing of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1-22. (Canceled)

23. (Previously presented) A process for producing an amorphous optically active isomer of lansoprazole which comprises keeping hydrated crystals of optically active isomer (R-isomer) of lansoprazole at about 20 to about 100°C for a time sufficient to produce the amorphous optically active isomer of lansoprazole.

24. (Original) The process for producing an amorphous optically active isomer of lansoprazole according to claim 23, which comprises heating at about 40 to about 80°C.

25. (Previously presented) The process according to claim 23, wherein the hydrated crystals of optically active isomer (R-isomer) of lansoprazole are in the form of 0.5 to 1.5 hydrate crystals of optically active isomer (R-isomer) of lansoprazole and are heated at about 50 to about 70°C.

26. (Previously presented) The process according to claim 23, wherein the keeping of the hydrated crystals of optically active isomer (R-isomer) of lansoprazole is carried out under reduced pressure or under ventilation.

27. (Previously presented) The process according to claim 23, wherein the produced amorphous optically active isomer of lansprazole does not show a specific peak under an X-ray powder diffraction analysis.

28. (Previously presented) The process of claim 27, wherein the hydrated crystals show a specific peak under an X-ray powder diffraction analysis, and keeping the hydrated crystals includes drying the hydrated crystals at about 60°-70° C under reduced pressure.

29. (Previously presented) The process of claim 27, wherein the hydrated crystals exhibit a specific peak under an X-ray powder diffraction analysis, and keeping the hydrated crystals includes drying the hydrated crystals at about 65° C under ventilation.

30. (Previously presented) The process according to claim 23, wherein the produced amorphous optically active isomer of lansoprazole contains more amorphous form than crystalline form.

31. (Previously presented) The process of claim 30, wherein the produced amorphous optically active isomer of lansoprazole contains about 60% or more amorphous form.

32. (New) The process of claim 23, wherein the amorphous optically active isomer of lansoprazole is unstable to atmospheric moisture and in acids.